

was 71 and he was healthy. He worked dawn until dusk, and he loved the land and he loved his family. We were always a very close-knit family and the hub of our family was my father and the ranch. Even though my brother, my sister, and I don't live there anymore, we all go home, along with the grandchildren, to help with the seasonal work. We take as much time off as we can to go up and help the ranch.

"My father's death was the most devastating event that any of us have ever gone through. The second most devastating event was sitting down with our estate attorney after my father's death. I will never forget his words. 'There is no way you can keep this place. Absolutely no way.' Still in shock from the accident, I said, how can this be? We own the land. We have no debt. We just lost our father and now we're going to lose the ranch?"

"Our attorney proceeded to pencil out the death taxes that would be due after my mother's death and we all sat in total shock. It had taken my grandfather and his father their entire lifetimes to build up this ranch. And now we cannot continue on and the grandchildren will not have the land and the rich heritage that it provided.

□ 2230

"It has been 3½ years since my dad's accident, and we still don't know what we are going to do. We only know that we will not be able to keep the ranch unless something is done with the estate tax law now.

"The estimated estate tax on our family ranching assets is \$3.3 million. We gross, not net, approximately \$350,000 per year from the cattle. Without the land being paid for and tight operating costs, we would not be able to make money from the business. Currently what we are trying to do is sell off one of our spring ranges in order to buy a million-dollar life insurance policy for our mother." So they are going to have to sell a part of the ranch to buy a life insurance policy on their mother so that perhaps it can allow them to pay off one-third of the estate taxes and avoid a fire sale.

"My mother does not have a husband anymore. She worked hard all her life and gave up a lot of material things to make this ranch operate. Now unless this estate tax law is changed or abolished, she will have to leave her home, the home she loves and our family will not have a base from which to carry on.

"This same scenario is happening to a lot of ranchers in our valley." It is not just happening to the Fords and the Carnegies and the wealthiest people of this country. It is happening to a lot of people in this country. It is happening and impacting heritage. It is impacting a lot of small businesses and it is impacting the American dream to be able to do something for the next generation.

Remember the statement that I made earlier? Why is it that this government discourages instead of encourages the continuation of these type of ranches or businesses? This letter goes on. Let me conclude the statement.

"I urge you to ask yourselves why does this tax exist? Is it worth the great harm it caused to my family and many others? If it is not worth the harm, then shouldn't the tax be eliminated? I hope you will remember our family when you consider this."

Let me say in conclusion of these remarks this evening, do not think as you hear from team number two that is encouraging the continuation of the death tax, do not pay heed to the President and the Vice President's policy that says we should increase the estate tax, the death tax. What you should pay attention to are the 65 Democrats and the entire Republican body that says, This death tax is not fair. It is not justified. It is on property that has already been taxed. And it is devastating some of our communities for the simple reason that a death occurred. We are only taking 2 percent of the surplus to eliminate the marriage penalty and to eliminate the death tax.

I urge every one of my colleagues, and I am telling you, 65 of the Democrats have already joined team number one. The Republicans are on team number one. I urge the balance of my colleagues, stand up and say no to this death tax. If you think, for example, it only happens to the wealthy, go home this weekend, go out to the small businesses and the farms and ask them.

Just one final concluding remark, and, that is, remember the sentence in the letter I just read, and, that is, Mr. Speaker, should we not be encouraging rather than discouraging the continuation of these ranches and these small businesses? Of course we should. We have an obligation to do so.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4810, MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY ELIMINATION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. LINDER (during the special order of Mr. McINNIS), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-766) on the resolution (H. Res. 559) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4810) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 103(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2001, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4871, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. LINDER (during the special order of Mr. McINNIS), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-767) on the resolution (H. Res. 560) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4871) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BACA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. BOSWELL (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of illness in the family.

Mr. ROEMER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 6:55 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of family matters.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. STABENOW, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEMINT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. NORWOOD, for 5 minutes, July 20.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, July 20.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BACA, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HOLT, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 558, I move that the House do now adjourn in memory of the late Hon. PAUL COVERDELL.